Recovery of revenue from unauthorised wireless users

1815. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have failed to recover revenue amounting to Rs. 2481 crore from 6435 unauthorised wireless users including VSNL for periods ranging from one to eighteen years;

(b) whether it is also a fact that no action, as provided in the India Telegraph Act, was taken against such users;

(c) if so, the reasons for not taking any action;

(d) what action has been taken to recover the dues; and

(e) the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Only an amount of Rs. 16.17 crores is to be recoverd from licensees towards licence renewal fees.

(b) and (c) A licence which is not renewed stands cancelled.

(d) and (e) Even though the onus of renewal of licence lies on the licencees, notices were issued for recovery of dues. An amount of Rs. 3.65 crores has since been received.

Out of order public telephones in Gujarat

1816. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of out of order public telephones in the rural areas of Gujarat;

(b) the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to make them functional?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) The